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ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF FRANCE-URSS

Comment: The following article appeared in the 16 - 31 December 1952 issue of the Paris periodical B. E. I. F. I. (Bulletin de l'Association d'Etudes et d'Information Politiques Internationales).<sup>7</sup>

France-URSS is one of the most important Soviet propaganda and political instruments in France. The association operates outside the usual sphere of political and union activity, evading the attention of the authorities and the public. However, the number of its members and supporters, its financial strength, and its many activities prove that France-URSS is one of the most dangerous Stalinist organizations functioning in France.

France-URSS was founded in Algiers in 1941 and in Paris in August 1944. The haste with which the organization was set up even before the end of the war shows what an important position it occupies in the Soviet system of propaganda and penetration. France-URSS is really a revival of the Association française des Amis de l'URSS (French Association of Friends of the USSR), which was founded in 1925 by Henri Barbusse, the Communist author, Vaillant-Couturier, the editor in chief of l'Humanité, and Francis Jourdain. Jourdain, a militant Stalinist, has received other assignments since the war. Although he is no longer with France-URSS, he is no less an active Communist as the president of the Secours Populaire Français (French People's Relief) and as a member of the board of directors of France-Vietnam. He is also a member of the executive committee of the "rationalist" (and Communist) periodical La Pensée; president of the Amis de la Commune (Friends of the Commune), whose vice president is Jacques Lajoinie; and a member of the Comité d'Initiative de la Défense de la Culture dans la Paix. He is equally active in the CFDI (Comité Français de Défense des Immigrés, French Committee for Defense of Immigrants), and in demonstrations against racism.

On the eve of World War II, the Amis de l'URSS, under the nominal presidency of Romain Rolland, had about 80,000 members and printed about 100,000 copies of a monthly periodical titled Russie d'aujourd'hui (Russia Today).

- 1 -

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The Amis de l'URSS, like other Stalinist organizations, went to extremes in their anti-French and pro-Hitler attitudes, a result of the Hitler-Stalin alliance concluded in August 1939.

#### Structure of France-URSS

With the Communist scholar Paul Langevin as its chairman, France-URSS held its first congress in Paris in January 1945; its second at Issy-les-Moulineaux in April 1946; its third at Nanterre in December 1947; its fourth at Montreuil in June 1949; its fifth in Paris in December 1950; and its sixth at Lyon in June 1952.

The association controls a publishing house, the Editions France-URSS, and puts out 125,000 copies of a monthly periodical, France-URSS. This periodical and publishing house have the same office location as the association, 29 rue d'Anjou, Paris 8. At this address, the "Maison France-URSS" also houses all the association's central offices. The building is owned by the Societe Curie Immobiliere du 29 rue d'Anjou (29 rue d'Anjou Building Society).

The association is made up of local committees called "France-URSS Committees," which are responsible for distributing the publication of the association, showing Soviet movies, organizing lectures and expositions, distributing propaganda, and forming "listener groups" for Radio Moscow's French broadcasts. Each committee is directed by a bureau of from three to ten people. Over the local committees are the department committees, each with a department bureau composed of members living in the chief-towns of the department. These committees coordinate the activities of the local committees. Finally, there is the central executive, with its very important Cultural and Economic Center.

#### Delegations to the USSR

Since October 1949, the association has arranged for so-called delegations to go to the USSR. In reality, these delegations represent the Soviet propaganda machine itself. Everyone knows that they are recruited by totalitarian methods. Their members are rounded out, nominated, and approved by authorities who never publicize the reasons behind their selections.

The delegations are purported to be made up not only of Communists but also of men of all backgrounds and political views. However, groups which are not in direct or indirect alliance with the Communists are never allowed to send delegates chosen by themselves in a truly representative manner.

The pamphlet titled France-URSS au travail, written by Fernand Grenier, vice president of France-URSS, and published by Editions France-URSS in 1950, says that it is up to the department committees to suggest the names of the delegates who are to go to the USSR, taking into consideration the "possibilities of their utilization after returning." However, only the national bureau of the association actually picks the delegates, who are chosen with a view to utilizing their generally pro-Soviet activity.

#### Cultural and Economic Center

The cultural and Economic Center is composed of 27 committees grouped into four sections. Almost all Communist leaders and sympathizers of intellectual background belong to these sections, which are concerned with (1) biological and medical sciences, (2) research and engineering, (3) human relations, and (4) fine arts.

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The members of these committees study documents relating to the Soviet Union (that is, documents defending the USSR), so they may familiarize the public with the USSR through articles, pamphlets and lectures. The committees' work is directed to the general public as well as to intellectuals.

The center organizes courses in Russian language and literature and supplies artists and musicians to concert and theatrical-directors etc., to produce Soviet works.

Each France-USSR committee must have a "cultural correspondent" who is in direct contact with the Cultural Center. This helps the committee familiarize the public with the USSR.

France-USSR with its large budget, and with the funds available from the Communists municipalities, is able to provide artists with work in theatrical production and cultural exposition, which promote "an understanding of Stalin's country." Once they have been engaged, the artists do not dare refuse to sign petitions for peace, and willingly add their names for its propaganda. It is not any social preoccupation that leads them to Communism, nor a belief in Stalin's peaceful intentions, it is the power of money that conquers them.

#### Purpose of France-USSR

Article 3 of the Bylaws of the association stipulates: "The association's goal is to promote mutual understanding of the two countries and their friendly cooperation in peace, within the existing legislation and on a national level..."

The association is notoriously and constantly unfaithful to this article. While the association employs every device for French understanding of the USSR, it does nothing, nor does it want to do anything, to enable the Soviet people to understand France. It neither organizes courses in the French language nor shows French films in the USSR. It is an organization for unilateral propaganda, Soviet propaganda in France.

This organization employs the same totalitarian methods as other Stalinist organizations, although a certain exterior liberalism is sometimes displayed. Article 10 states, "During committee meetings as well as in other activities sponsored by France-USSR, all discussion contrary to the goals of the Association is forbidden. Failure to observe this rule will lead to exclusion."

The objective of the organization is to organize French collaboration with the USSR. The bylaws do not allow any expression of doubt regarding this purpose.

#### Political Activity

France-USSR is concerned with political activity, its "cultural" activity being either a means or a screen. Furthermore, the association regularly adopts the political slogans of the Communist Party. This is not a coincidence. It is a principle clearly established in an article by Vice President Fernand Grenier which appeared in *France-Nouvelle* of 1 December 1951. "Our policy of rallying the French people for national independence and for peace requires an active campaign to promote an understanding of the real USSR. In this campaign, France-USSR can and must play a leading role," as comrade Jacques Duclos emphasized at the Paris Communist Information Meeting, 28 June 1951."

It should be noted that the leaders of the association acknowledge their submission to Stalinist policy, even in the communist press. They are generally more discreet in their statements to the general public.

- 5 -  
RESTRICTED

25X1A

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France-URSS, whose financial resources are enormous, is associated directly with the Foreign Cultural Administration at Moscow. The association is a cover and a legal pretext for the activities of Soviet agents in France. It is one of the principal permanent relay stations between the Soviet machine and the CFF (Communist Party of France).

A large number of Soviet-born naturalized French citizens and many Soviet women who are French by marriage are employed by the association. In addition, since the dissolution of the Union des Citoyens Soviétiques (Union of Soviet Citizens) in France, it is France-URSS which serves as the main meeting place for Soviet citizens residing in France. Article 5 of the Bylaws states that "all persons of French or Soviet nationality who are sympathetic to the goals of the association will be admitted to membership."

Members of the Association

The present officers of France-URSS were elected at the national congress held at Lyon, in June 1952.

**President:** F. Joliot-Curie, scientist and professor in the Collège de France, president of the World Peace Council and of the Amitié France-Polonaise (France-Polish Friendship Association), a director of La Tenue, the Union Nationale des Intellectuels (National Union of Intellectuals), and the Comité de Défense d'Henri Martin (Committee for the Defense of Henri Martin).

**Vice President:**

1. General Petit, managing editor of the monthly periodical, L'Armée Française; president of the UPR (Fédération des Officiers de Réserve Républicaine, Federation of Republican Reserve Officers) and vice president of the Confédération Nationale des Réserves des Armées de la République (National Confederation of Army Reserves of the Republic), both of which are pro-Communist military organizations; a director of France-Vietnam and, as such, a direct accomplice of Ho Chi Minh against the French army, member of the permanent committee of the Peace Movement, member of the association Nationale des Anciens Combattants de la Résistance Française (National Association of Veterans of the French Resistance), the ANC (Association Républicaine des Anciens Combattants, Republican Veterans Association), and the Association Nationale des Rapatriés d'Indochine (National Association of Immigrant Vietnamese), etc.

2. Fernand Grenier, 57, rue Leblanc, Saint-Denis (Seine), member of the Central Committee of the CFF and the actual head of France-URSS. Born on 9 July 1901, at Tourcoing, he is known as a Soviet diplomatic agent. In 1943 at London, he negotiated for Communist participation in France Combattante. Before the war, he was head of the Amic de l'URSS and was made a Soviet diplomatic agent for French internal affairs. Grenier was appointed Air Commissioner by General de Gaulle for the Provisional Government at Algiers, through a compromise between de Gaulle and Marx. He insisted that Communists be included in the government. (This choice seemed to arouse Moscow's suspicion, of which Grenier does not yet seem to have been cleared. Stalin always distrusts Communists who go to London, even if he himself has sent them there on a mission, because he fears the Intelligence Service.)

3. Benjamin Weill-Hallé, member of the Academy of Medicine and honorary physician of the hospitals of Paris; president of the Union Nationale des Médecins pour la Paix (National Union of Physicians for Peace); member of the permanent committee of the Peace Movement and of the World Peace Council; member of the Comité de Défense et d'Action Contre les Licenciements Arbitraires

- 4 -

RESTRICTED

25X1A

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(Committee for Defense and Action against Arbitrary Dismissal); member of the patronage committee of La Pensée, president of the Permanent Council for the Defense of Children; member of the Committee for the Commemoration of the 1934 Demonstrations.

Secretary General: Camille Pailleret, confidential agent of Stalin's machine; along with Fernand Grenier, the true director of France.

National Secretary for Propaganda: Raymond Marquie, who with the title of colonel, played into the hands of the Soviets in General Petit's military mission in the USSR.

National Secretary attached to the Cultural and Economic Center: Jacques Nicolle, one of the most active organizers of intellectual crypto Communism.

National Secretary for Organization: Raymond Treppo.

Secretariat Members:

1. Suzanne Cage.

2. Pierre Debray, Catholic pro-Communist, disciple and accomplice of the interdicted priest Jean Boulier; author of a controversial pamphlet entitled Un catholique retour de l'URSS, published in 1950 by the Stalinist "Editions du Pavillon," author of a novel entitled Le Dieu des Violents published in 1946, and an essay on Ribaudo, published in 1943 by René Juillard who, in imitation of Gaston Gallimard, signed in favor of the Communist spies, the Rosenbergs and Beloyannis.

3. Ali Landrau.

4. André Blumel, lawyer, 68 rue Pierre Charron, Paris; former member of the Political Action Committee of the SFIO (Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière, French Section of the Workers' International-Socialist Party); a leading member of the Socialist Unity Party, a para-Communist party, president of the Communist MRAP (Mouvement Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme et pour la Paix, Movement Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and for Peace); a leading promoter of Stalinist penetration in Jewish circles, himself recently a victim of Soviet anti-Semitism.

Members of the National Bureau:

1. Francis Cohen, editor of L'Humanité and member of the editorial board of La Nouvelle Critique.

2. Emile Labeyrie, 10 rue Vergennes, Versailles; founder and president of France-Poumamie, president of France-Fulgarije; member of the Amicale des élus Républicains de France (Association of Elected Republicans of France) and of the patronage committee of La Pensée. He gave 10,000 francs to the national drive for the Communist press.

3. Bernard Lafaille, professor at the Ecole Centrale.

4. Marc Fuglton.

5. Albert Puel, a member of the national committee of the MLP (Mouvement de Libération du Peuple, People's Liberation Movement).

6. Alban Satragne, member and former vice-president of the General Council of the Seine Department.

25X1A

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7. Louis de Villefesse, rue de Clichy, Longjumeau (Seine-et-Oise), former member of the Free French Naval Forces, editor of the periodical Esprit and active Soviet collaborationist; member of the committee of the periodical Europe and of the Comite de Defense et d'Action Contre les Licenciements Arbitraires; he belongs to the national bureau of the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans; he was a member of a France-URSS-sponsored delegation to the USSR, currently he signs Communist manifestos and petitions.

## Notable members of the National Committee:

1. Jean Baby, 18 rue de Grenelle, Paris 7, professeur agrégé in history at the Jacques Decour Lycee and at the Institute of Political Science, founder of the Economic Research Committee of the Central Committee of the CFF and an advisor to the party's secretariat; he has important international contacts and is in direct contact with the Soviet economic offices (as are Robert Chambon, 9 rue Pergolaie, and Pierre Lebrun, 7 rue Treillard, Paris); he led the French delegation to the USSR in July and August, 1951, and participated in the Groupe de Travail Francais (French Labor Group) at the economic conference in Moscow in April 1952, he plays an important part in setting up Communist cells in schools.

2. Charles Pottelbaum, 7 rue Michelot, Paris 10, pro-Communist economist, as his book Economie Soviétique Industrielle, professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes of the Sorbonne, he was a member of the working group (Groupe de Travail) for the Moscow Economic Conference, and belongs to the group recently created to develop propaganda arising from the conference.

3. Abbe Jean Boulier, interdicted priest, used as a Catholic propagandist by the Communists; member of the World Peace Council and the permanent French committee of the Peace Movement. He is also on the executive committee of France-Tchecoslovaquie.

4. Jean Casalbou, (called "Sylvain"), militant of the Communist press machine; born 16 October 1913 at Fréjus (Corrèze); former professor at the Lycee at Toulon; former editor in chief of the Communist newspapers Les Allorages, Le Petit Varois, La Liberte du Var, editor in chief of Ce Soir.

5. Pierre Cot, lawyer, "progressive" deputy of the Rhone Department, known for his political activity and contacts with the Soviet diplomatic service; director of the periodical Defense de la Paix, member of the World Council of Peace and the permanent French committee of the Peace Movement; president of France-Nongria; member of the patronage committee of La Pensée.

6. Gabriel Citerne, cabinetmaker, former Communist deputy, former judge at the Haute-Cour de Justice, he was a member of the delegation which visited the USSR in August 1952.

7. Louis Daquin, pro-Communist screenplay writer, member of the patronage committee of La Pensée.

8. Jean Eiffel, pro-Communist artist, member of the executive committee of the Communist Union Nationale des Intellectuels.

9. Pierre George, Sorbonne professor, Communist geographer, who in 1952 presided over the examining board for geography teachers, member of the patronage committee of La Pensée, the Comité pour la Défense d'Henri Martin, and the Committee for the Commemoration of the 1934 Demonstrations; he is interested in the institutes and periodicals directed by Alfred Sauvy (the Institut d'Etudes Demographiques, the Institut d'Etude de l'Economie Soviétique, and their publications). Pierre George contributed regularly to L'Humanité beginning in November

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1935, when he was a teacher at Montpellier; in spite of this, he is now a professor at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (which prepares candidates for high government positions) and is one of the main contributors to the University Press of France.

10. Jean-Maurice Hermann, lieutenant-colonel of France Combattante, foreign and Soviet political editor of Liberation, secretary-general of the Syndicat National de Journalistes, member of the permanent committee of the Peace Movement, editor in chief of the crypto-Stalinist Cahiers Internationaux. He is one of the founders of the sham Socialist Unity Party.

11. Vladimir Jankelevitch, 1 bis quai aux Fleurs, Paris, professor of philosophy at the Sorbonne, member of France-USSS since its beginning; an active Stalinist collaborator although he is a Jew, member of the Comite pour la Defense d'Henri Martin and of the Committee for Commemoration of the 1934 Demonstrations.

12. Jacques Arzel is on the editorial board of L'Observateur.

13. Eugene Aubel, 48 rue de Meudon, Paris, professor of the Faculte des Sciences, member of the permanent committee of the Peace Movement, of the Comite de Defense et d'Action Contre les liberticides, of the executive committee of the Union Francaise Universitaire (French University Union), of the patronage committee of La Pensée, and vice-president of France-Bulgarie.

14. Lucie Aubrac, "honorary conteuse-attendante" of the PTF Communists (now the Association Nationale des Anciens Combattants de la Resistance Francaise), member of the Comite pour la Defense d'Henri Martin, and of the permanent committee of the Combattants de la Paix.

15. Alexandre Kamenka, motion-picture producer, who has recently gone to the USSR in a delegation with Henry Magnan of Le Monde; he lives at 6 rue de la Meur in Paris and is completing a motion picture, "Je suis un mouchard" (I am a Spy) with coproducer Sirius; his firm, known as Alkam, has produced "Les Freres Bouquinquant" and "Le Mystere Barter."

16. Elisabeth Magnien, who is also secretary of the Cultural Center of France-USSS.

17. Claude Mathon, secretary-general of the Association des Amis de Mitchourine (Friends of Michurin Association), a secret organization functioning inside and under the protection of France-USSS.

18. Maurice Pressouyre, PTT employee, 10 rue des Augustins, Antony (Seine); a member of the Secours Populaire Francais and secretary-general of the Socialist Unity Party.

19. Charles Serre, former progressive deputy from the Dordogne Department, specialist in political work in the field of aeronautics; director of the Communist periodical France-Hongrie, vice-president of the association of the same name, member of the permanent committee of the Peace Movement, etc. Connected with the Communists since 1942, he writes for the press behind the Iron Curtain and speaks on the Communist radio. He was made secretary-general and reporter of the Parliamentary Committee on Events in France from 1933 to 1945.

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